

safe in metropolitan cities and Main Street USA know this firsthand. One of the viscous subplots of this economic turmoil is that crime and the need for police services undoubtedly will increase. The small town rural police department may be the only Government entity that answers the phone in the middle of the night when a citizen has just lost a job and is contemplating suicide. A sheriff's deputy or police officer dispatched to the scene might be the only direct intervention that this citizen has with a government service. If there are not enough deputies or officers to go around, the response to this cry for help may be delayed or, worse yet, might not get there in time. When you reframe this issue relative to the scenario that I just laid out, it troubles me deeply and impresses upon me just how much our rural law enforcement community needs this reauthorization.

#### REMEMBERING HARRY ROBERTS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of a true Wyoming gentleman, a public servant, a veteran, a father to five girls, and—I am privileged to say—a friend.

Kearsley Harrison Roberts, better known to us as Harry Roberts of Kaycee, WY, died today, January 28, 2009, in Vero Beach, FL.

Harry Roberts was really a renaissance man, the kind of which are the lore of Western legends.

He was a Yale-educated sheep rancher, a Navy veteran of "the greatest generation," an expert in public education—successfully elected statewide as Superintendent of Wyoming's public schools, a leader in Wyoming economic policy, and most of all he was a caring father.

I think we can imagine what brought him the most joy his family and of course, his five spirited daughters Mandy, Joan, Sheila, Ginny, and Susan.

Harry led quite a ranch crew. Picture five girls growing up on the Wyoming wildlands in the same area where Butch Cassidy and the Hole in the Wall Gang stowed rustled livestock and outran the law.

This was north central Wyoming, Barnum, a small community near Kaycee where to this day more rodeo cowboys than any one town in the West call home.

They call this part of Johnson County, WY, Outlaw Country, and after an eastern education, it inspired one western soul to work a sheep ranch for the love of the Wyoming way of life.

Harry Roberts found home and heart on this ranch, and today, I like to think of him back on his range, with the great western sky warming his big, signature smile.

Wyoming's Harry Roberts was the genuine Wyoming gentleman.

He was also the proud father-in-law to this body's beloved former colleague, U.S. Senator Craig Thomas. Harry's daughter Susan Roberts Thom-

as married Craig Thomas and the two were inseparable in life.

Susan, I speak for so many here in this Chamber and for all of Wyoming when I say our thoughts and prayers are with you today and with your entire family.

We grieve, as we did for Craig, the natural end of a purposeful life.

We recall a man who served his State, his country, and his family selflessly.

And we say, we remember Harry, as we do Craig, because of what he did and how he did it always with distinction and with honor.

Harry is and always will be a proud and patriotic member of the "greatest generation."

In fact he was what sailors call a "plank owner."

At that time, a "plank owner" referred to an individual who was a member of the crew of a ship when that ship was placed in commission. As part of the vessel decommissioning and disposal process, the Navy formerly removed a small portion of the deck as a traditional reminder of the time when "wooden walls and iron men" were a key part of the Navy.

In Harry's case, it was a boat—a submarine in fact.

After his military service Harry worked and lived in Wyoming, eventually running for superintendent of Public Instruction in 1967. Harry was known as a reformer of course and someone who cared deeply for Wyoming children.

In 1970, in one of the closest races in Wyoming's history, Harry lost a race for Wyoming's lone U.S. House race losing by only 608 votes to Teno Roncalio.

Harry was a leader in our State on issues that went well beyond education. He served as director of the Wyoming Heritage Foundation and counted many successes during an especially exciting and challenging time in our State's history.

It was at the Heritage Foundation that my wife, then Bobbi Brown, first met Harry and learned so much under his guidance for several years.

Harry personified the Wyoming Heritage Foundation's mission for a strong, prosperous, diverse and sustained economy for the citizens of Wyoming. His goals and initiative are felt to this day.

More recently after his retirement, he returned to Washington often to visit his daughter Susan and to see his son-in-law Craig Thomas.

Susan became a teacher of course, following in the footsteps of her father who held the profession so highly.

It was in May of 2004 that Senator Thomas hosted a very special reception along with Vice President Cheney here in Washington.

Craig invited Harry and his fellow "plank owners" to be recognized along with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall.

It was a special occasion to acknowledge and pay tribute to the duty, sacrifices, and valor of all the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in World War II.

And it was also for Harry and his fellow sailors.

I have talked to several folks who were there that day. I know the pride that Susan and Craig felt for their father, for his service, and for his example.

I will end now with the Navy Hymn, a song and a benediction that Harry would have heard often at sea in service to our country. I will recite the first and last verse.

Eternal Father, Strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bid'st the mighty Ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to thee,  
for those in peril on the sea.  
O Trinity of love and power!  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them where-so-ever they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee,  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

#### REMEMBERING THE SHURRAB FAMILY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we have all seen the photographs of houses, schools and other civilian infrastructure destroyed in Gaza, and the reports of civilian deaths, including over 400 children, and many thousands more injured. Behind each of these statistics is a story of a family tragedy. I want to take this opportunity to talk about one that has touched the lives of Vermonters, and which should cause each of us deep concern.

Amer Shurrab is a recent graduate of Middlebury College, which is located not very far from my home in Vermont. Amer is also a Palestinian, whose family was living in Gaza during the recent Israeli invasion. His father, Muhammed Kassab Shurrah, is a farmer who grows fruits and vegetables on a small plot of land.

On January 16, Amer's father and brothers were returning home with provisions from their farm during the 3-hour humanitarian cease-fire that was in effect that day. Although there was apparently no indication that the route was unsafe for a civilian vehicle carrying civilian passengers, Israeli soldiers fired from a civilian house at their car as it passed for reasons that remain unknown. In a panic, Amer's brother, Kassab, already wounded, got out of the vehicle and was shot a total of 18 times and died a short distance away. Israeli bullets also hit Amer's father and younger brother Ibrahim, who were unable to leave the car to get medical attention because Israeli soldiers refused to allow movement in or out of the area.

Muhammed tried everything he could to save his son Ibrahim, who was bleeding to death before his eyes. He phoned a hospital with his cell phone, but the hospital told him the Israeli Army was

preventing an ambulance from reaching them. He called relatives, who contacted the Red Cross on his behalf to ask for assistance, but the Red Cross had to wait for assurance from Israeli authorities that an ambulance would get through unscathed, assurance which was not forthcoming. He spoke with several members of the press, including the BBC, who even broadcast his plea for help. But an ambulance could not reach them until 22 hours after the incident, even though the hospital was located less than a mile away. By this time, Ibrahim had died in his father's arms. Israeli troops reportedly looked on and ignored Muhammed's pleas for help.

This case cries out for an immediate, thorough, credible and transparent investigation by the Israeli Government. Any individuals determined to have violated the laws of war should be prosecuted and appropriately punished. In addition, it is important that the U.S. Embassy determine whether any Israeli soldiers who were equipped by the U.S. violated U.S. laws or agreements governing the use of U.S. equipment, both in relation to this incident and others involving civilian casualties. This should include the use of white phosphorous in heavily populated areas, which is alleged to have caused serious injuries to civilians.

Mr. President, this is a heart-breaking story. My thoughts and prayers go out to Amer Shurrab and his family and friends, and to the families of other civilians, Palestinian and Israeli, who died or suffered other grievous losses in this latest escalation of violence.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN E. "BETSY" FLYNN

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Carolyn E. "Betsy" Flynn of Benton, KY, for her recent appointment to the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council.

Mrs. Flynn currently serves as president and vice chairman of Community Financial Services Bank in Benton, KY, which manages around \$400 million in assets. This institution has served the Benton community for almost 120 years and Mrs. Flynn has contributed to its success since 1976. For 24 years, Betsy Flynn has also instructed at the Barret School of Banking in Memphis, TN. Her public service record is extensive as well. She has served on several economic development boards, the city council, the chamber of commerce, the tourist commission, and has recently been appointed to the Kentucky Investment Commission.

The Consumer Advisory Council serves a vital role in advising the Federal Reserve Board on guidelines under the Consumer Credit Protection Act and issues regarding consumer financial services. Mrs. Flynn's impressive

resume provides a solid foundation for her new role on the council. Her expertise in the banking and financial industry will serve her and the advisory council well.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Flynn for her remarkable achievement. Kentucky and the entire country should be proud to have such a distinguished individual serving them.●

#### HONORING GEORGE FOREMAN

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate and recognize a distinguished citizen of Kentucky, Mr. George Foreman of Danville, who was recently named Danville Art Citizen of the Year by the Arts Commission of Danville/Boyle County.

This prestigious award is meant to identify an individual in the community who has made it possible for the arts to become an integral part in other people's lives. The Arts Commission of Danville/Boyle County issued the first Art Citizen of the Year award in 2004.

As managing director of the Norton Center for the Arts and Associate Professor at Centre College, Mr. Foreman has accomplished impressive things, including forming and directing Danville's own Advocate Brass Band, receiving the 1996 Bruce Montgomery Leadership Award, and also founding the Great American Brass Band Festival. There is no doubt that Mr. Foreman's service has made his community a better place because of his dedication to the arts and the citizens of his town.

During his years of service, Mr. Foreman has played host to all the major U.S. military bands, who presented their concerts free to the public. He also partnered with Stage One, a children's theatre in Louisville, to bring the Norton Center a children's theatre. Mr. Foreman has made the arts a central focus in his life, and I look forward to his future projects.

Once again, I congratulate Mr. Foreman on this award. He is truly an inspiration to all of Kentucky, and I wish him luck on all of his future endeavors.●

#### HONORING EAST RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a small business in my home State of Maine that has risen to the top during its very short existence. East Restaurant & Lounge, located in Wells, was recently named one of the top Chinese restaurants in America—the first time a Maine restaurant has been recognized with such a distinction.

Opened in June 2008 by owner Ri Teng Li, East Restaurant & Lounge has quickly impressed its clients with delicious Chinese, Thai, and Japanese cuisine. Mr. Li previously owned and operated the popular Yum Mee Restaurant in Wells, and East Restaurant allows

him to keep long-loved classic dishes from the prior establishment while greatly expanding his menu. With more than 400 items, ranging from Peking duck to sushi to Pad Thai, as well as an expansive and impressive buffet on Sundays, East has something for everyone. The restaurant also has a spacious lounge, where guests can relax after work and enjoy a specialty cocktail. And East offers catering services for a variety of events.

Perhaps most notable about East Restaurant is the building. It is housed in a striking and eye-catching structure, with a stunning interior full of beautiful decor, from ornate chandeliers and staircases to gorgeous glass doors. There is also a gift shop on the restaurant's upper level, with unique and rare gifts that include charming jewelry.

Despite its youth, East Restaurant has rapidly accumulated regular customers and well-deserved accolades. Most recently, Chinese Restaurant News, a San Francisco-based monthly publication dedicated to the more than 45,695 Chinese restaurant owners and operators across America, named East Restaurant as one of the top 10 Chinese restaurants for overall excellence in the United States, a truly remarkable feat. Restaurants were evaluated for eight categories, including decor and atmosphere, food quality, and sanitation. And because of its astonishing appearance, East Restaurant was recognized as the No. 1 establishment in the best decor category. Mr. Li was recently presented with the awards at a ceremony in Las Vegas earlier this month.

Mr. Li is an entrepreneur who has consistently aimed to improve each of his new ventures. He came to the United States in the mid-1980s with minimal knowledge of English and knowing hardly anyone. He began working at the restaurant of a friend of his in New York City, and through hard work, determination, and perseverance, Mr. Li realized his dream and opened his own restaurant. After moving to Maine, he established several other restaurants and now operates one in the neighboring town of Kennebunk, as well as a gift shop in Portland.

A civic-minded restaurateur, Mr. Li has constantly found ways to give back to the community. An avid contributor to the local Rotary Club and the Wells & Ogunquit Senior Center, Mr. Li has also donated to scholarship funds at Wells High School, where his daughter attends.

Mr. Li's marvelous story is a reminder of the benefits and rewards of commitment and resolve. His dedication to providing quality food in an inviting and distinctive atmosphere is commendable, and the results have been astounding. Congratulations to Mr. Li and everyone at East Restaurant & Lounge on their well-deserved acknowledgement, and I wish them many more years of success to come.●